

# The Schwartzman / Radzyner Family in Brazil



Zolmin and Helena Radzyner Schwartzman, c1930

Simon Schwartzman

Rio de Janeiro, October 2021

## Zolmin and Chaja: the Schwartzman / Radzyner family in Brazil

Zolmin Schwartzman family .....	4
Chaja Radzyner Family .....	7
Bella Schwartzman Wajnman .....	10
Simon Schwartzman.....	13
Jacques Schwartzman .....	16
The New Generation .....	18

Zolmin (Salomão) and Chaja (Helena) Schwartzman married in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in 1935. They both arrived in the country with their parents after World War I and lived in Belo Horizonte most of their lives. They had three children, Bella, Simon, and Jacques.

Belo Horizonte is the capital of the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais. It is situated in an elevated mountain region at 450 km from Rio de Janeiro. In the 1930s, it had about 200 thousand inhabitants; today they are 2.5 million.

They were Jewish, but not religious. They spoke Yiddish at home and socialized with the small Jewish community in town, mostly with the “progressist” faction that identified themselves with the European Bund

movement. Zolmin worked as a peddler and merchant, selling furniture in a small shop in later years. Helena was active in amateur Yiddish theater, took care of the children, and eventually helped the family earning some money, which was always short. He died in 1988, and she in 1997.

The information we have about their early years and original families is fragmentary. They had no documents about their forbearers, just a few pictures, and their children neglected to register their memories while they were alive – young people care more about the future than about the past.



## Zolmin Schwartzman family

Zolmin (1908-1988) was the oldest son of Shimson Schwartzman (1881-1933), married to Pesse (Paulina) Rozenfeld (1886-1958). Zolmin used to say that his family was from the small shtetl of “Barlidon”, Romania. It was Bîrlădeni, a commune in Ocnița District, a small town in what used to be Bessarabia, a region in the Russian Empire that became part of Romania in 1918 and is now Moldova.



Shia Ersch



Pesse Schwartzman

The only direct information we have about the original family was a picture of Shia Ersh, described by Zolmin in a handwritten note as “father of father, born and deceased in Barlidon”. A household record from Bessarabia lists a family headed by Yankel Shvartsman, born 1805, with 4 sons and 3 daughters. The sons include a person named Ovshiy, born 1844. Ovshiy is

apparently a variant of Joshua, and Shia is a possible Yiddish nickname. The record is from Khotyn, an administrative center just a few kilometers from Bîrlădeni. So, there is a good chance that Oshyi, son of Yankel, was Shia, Zolmin's grandfather.



Shimson, Zolmin, Sanni, Pesse, Adelia, c. 1923



Adelia, Zolmin, Sanni, c. 1926

The story goes that Shimson migrated alone to Brazil before World War I, working in Rio de Janeiro as a peddler and saving money to bring his family later. He returned to his hometown with his savings, but news spread that a Jew had come from America with lots of money, and he was robbed. He returned to Brazil to start saving again, and, after the end of the war, was able to finally bring his family, arriving in Rio de Janeiro from Hamburg on November 27, 1923, on the ship Ouessant. In the passenger list we can see the names of Shimson Schwartzman and

his family: Sura Pese, his wife, and the children Zalman, Sanko and Heige<sup>1</sup>. They took Brazilian names: Shimson became Simão; Sura Pese, or Pesse, became Paulina; and Zolman became Salomão, but maintained “Zolmin” in most of his documents. His younger brother, Sanko (1911-1996) adopted the name of Sanni. His original name may have been something else, since both Sanko and Sanni seem to be diminutives. Heige (1912-1941) adopted the name Adelia. Some years later, in Brazil, they had another daughter, Schendel (1926-1990).

Passagiername	Vorname	Alter	Erwachsen	Kinder	Religion	Land	Ort	Abreise	Einreise	Nationalität	Profession	Religion
Rifner	Sura	36	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen
-	Paulina	15	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen
Schwartzman	Simão	11	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen
-	Salomão	39	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen
-	Zolman	13	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen
-	Paulina	11	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen
-	Heige	9	1	1	Jude	Polen	17.11.33	17.11.33	Polen	Polen	Polen	Polen

The family lived in Rio de Janeiro until the early 1930s, when Shimson and Adelia got infected with tuberculosis. Belo Horizonte, up in the mountains, was considered to have a much more favorable climate for the lungs, and they moved there. Shimson died in 1933 and Adelia in 1941. Shimson’s tomb is the first in Belo Horizonte’s Jewish cemetery.

<sup>1</sup> I am grateful to Nicholson Ellis for the household list of names obtained while he was doing research on his mother’s ancestry, an also for finding the ships passenger list. His grandmother, Nancy Schwartzman, could have been the granddaughter of Aron, another of Yankel Shvartsman’s sons. I was also able to retrieve, from the Brazilian National Archive, the ship’s passenger list provided to the port authorities in Rio de Janeiro.



## Chaja Radzyner Family

Chaja (Helena) Radzyner (1914-1997) was born in Safed, then Palestine. She was the daughter of Yaakov Leib Radzyner, one of the grandsons of Reb Chaim Radzyner (1827-1906). Reb Chaim was from a dynasty of Hasidic rabbis in the city of Lodz, Poland, and migrated to Palestine in 1873, together with his second wife, Rywka Kossover (1859-1904).

They settled in Safed, where they established a Yeshiva, and are both buried there. In 1904 Gavriel Radzyner (1858-1944, son of his first wife, Gittle Chaja, joined his father in Safed together with two of his own children: Yaakov Leib Radzyner (1890-1925), Chaja's father, and Elimelech (1893-1981). In total, Reb Chaim had seven children, and their descendants who did not die in the Holocaust live today in Israel, the United States, Netherlands, Brazil, and other places.



**Joseph, Chaja, Fruma and Yaakov Radzyner, c1905, Safed**

Yaakov married Fruma Shapira, also from a Jewish Polish family. They were married around 1910, and had three children, Joseph (or Youssef), Chaja and Miriam, or Maria. After Miriam's birth, the marriage broke down, and Fruma went to Brazil with the baby, where she had a brother, Abraham Shapira (1891-1967), who had gone there a few years before. Fruma, who adopted the Brazilian name of Firmina, was the sister of Leah, married to Bentzion Heller, who also lived in Safed (in 1950 Chaja's cousin Bernardo Heller (1907-1983), son of Leah and Bentzion, born in Safed, arrived in Brazil. He is survived by his wife Rachel and three children, Leo, Ethel and Tania).



Chaja and Fruma



Miriam and Fruma

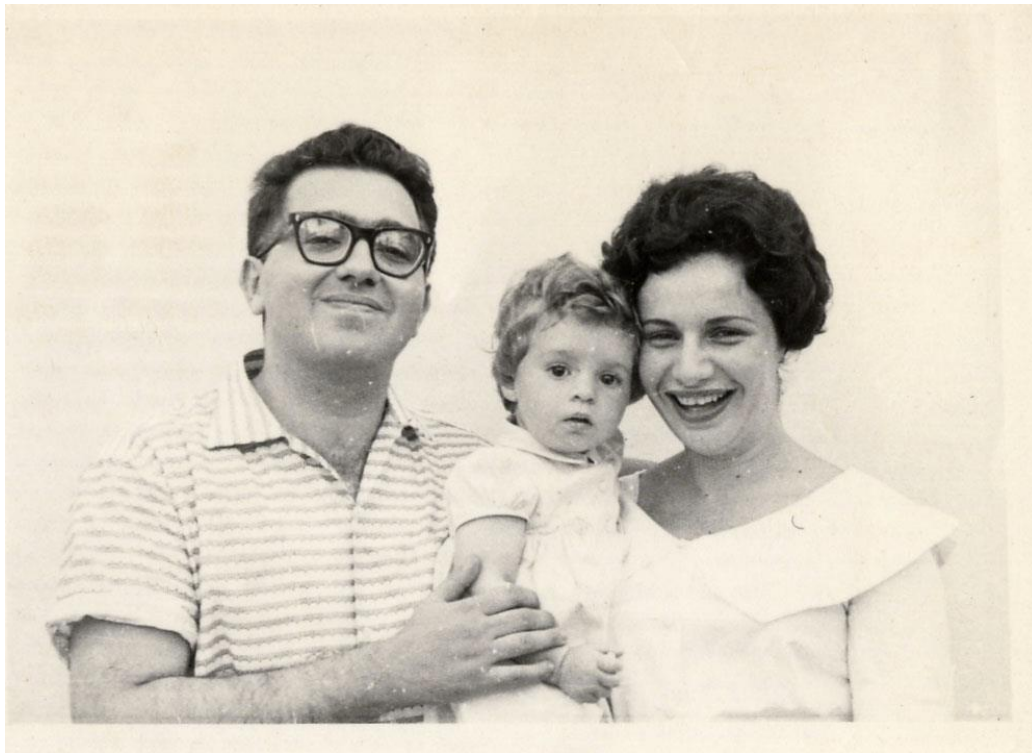
Yaakov remained in Palestine but later returned to Poland with the older children. His health was fragile, he had been injured in a mugging while still in Palestine and died in 1925, at the early age of 34; he is buried in the Lodz Jewish cemetery. With this death, the family arranged to deliver the children to the mother in Brazil. They travelled alone and arrived in Rio de Janeiro around 1926, and after some time Fruma moved with the children to Belo Horizonte, where there was a small community of Jewish emigrants from Safed and other parts. Chaja met Zolmin



and they married in 1935. In 1937 Joseph died in a typhus epidemic, and after some time Fruma moved back to Rio de Janeiro with her daughter Miriam. They both adopted Shapira as their surname, rather than Radzyner. In 1944 Miriam married Zumalá Bonoso, a real state entrepreneur, and had a daughter, Ana Maria (1945 – 2017). In the last years of her life, Fruma lived in the mountain town of Teresópolis near Rio de Janeiro.

## Bella Schwartzman Wajnman

Bella (1936-1977) was born in Belo Horizonte on August 5, 1936. In 1954 she met Bernardo Wajnman (1935-1995), from Rio de Janeiro, who was an active militant of the Hashomer Hatzair Zionist youth movement.



Bernardo, Solange and Bella Wajnman, c 1960

She was 18 and had just finished normal school to become a teacher. They got married in December 1955, made Aliyah – migrated to Israel - and joined the Yas'ur kibbutz in the Western Galilee. They did not adapt to the new life, however, and in 1958, with Bella pregnant of their first daughter, decided to return to Brazil. They settled in Rio de Janeiro, where Solange was born on August 27, 1958. Bernardo started a new life as a merchant, and a few years later they decided to move to Belo Horizonte, where they had two other children, Simone, born August 5, 1962, and Sergio, born December 19, 1964. Bella died in 1977, at the early age of 40, from an aneurysm, and Bernardo survived her until 1995.



Sérgio Wajnman



Solange Wajnman

Solange Wajnman studied social sciences, did her graduate work in France, and moved to São Paulo, Brazil, where she taught sociology at Universidade Paulista (Unip) until retirement.

Simone Wajnman studied economics and was a professor at the Department of Demography, School of Economics at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). She married João Heraldo Lima and they had three children, Helena (1991), Pedro (1993) and Antônio (1996).

Sergio Wajnman also studied economics, but his life was cut short by a brief illness in 1991, at age 26.



Simone, Antônio, Pedro and Helena Wajnman

## Simon Schwartzman



Luisa, Inez, Simon and Isabel Schwartzman, c 2008

Simon was born in Belo Horizonte on July 3, 1939. He studied sociology and political science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, sociology at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Santiago de Chile and got his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1966 he married Carmen Lent, from Buenos Aires, and they had one son, Michel Schwartzman, born in Berkeley, USA, on November 16, 1968. Carmen is a clinical psychologist, graduated from the University of Buenos Aires. She is the daughter Menachem Lent and Ziwia Brudersohn, originated from Russia and later Germany. They got divorced a few years later and in 1976 Simon married Inez Maria Farah, from Rio de Janeiro. Inez, also a clinical psychologist, is the daughter of Felipe Farah and Amelia Nasser, from a family of Christian Arabs who migrated from Lebanon and Syria to Brazil in the early 20th century. Inez and Simon live in Rio de Janeiro



and have three children, Luisa (October 7, 1977), Isabel (August 5, 1979) and Felipe (February 13, 1981).



Isabel, Felipe, Luisa and Michel Schwartzman

Michel Lent Schwartzman studied graphics design and got his master's degree on interactive communication at the New York University, and works the fields of new communication technologies and business consulting. He was married Rio de Janeiro with to Cristiana Javier, a culinary chef. They have two children, Gabriel (2006) and Enrique (2012).

Luisa Farah Schwartzman studied economics in Brazil, has a MA from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Madison, Wisconsin.; She is associate professor of sociology at the University of Toronto. Luisa is married to Yuri Tahktheyev, from a Russian family, who is a computer science engineer. They have two children, Dimitri (2012) and Alexandre (Sasha, 2014).



Isabel Farah Schwartzman studied social sciences at the University of York, England, did graduate work in Germany and South Africa, and got her master's degree on education technology at Harvard University. She lives in São Paulo.

Felipe Farah Schwartzman studied economics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, London School of Economics, and got his Ph.D. from Princeton University. He is married to Julia Righetti, from Brazil, and have two children, Pedro (2012) and David (2014). They live in Richmond, Virginia, where he works as an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank, and Julia works as a professional photographer.

## Jacques Schwartzman

Jacques Schwartzman was born in Rio de Janeiro on June 10, 1945, but lived most of his life in Belo Horizonte. He studied economics at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, where he worked as a professor of economics and in several capacities as a higher education executive. He is married to Riva Satovschi, daughter of Lipa Satovschi and Doba Boczar. Riva is a psychoanalyst who also taught at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. They both did their graduate studies in the United States, he at the University of Pittsburgh and she at Duquesne University. They have two daughters, Ana (1988) and Laura (1991), and one grandson, Daniel.



Jacques and Riva Schwartzman



Ana and Laura Satovschi Schwartzman

Ana Satovschi Schwartzman is a fashion designer, married to Otávio Corlaiti, an engineer. Laura Satovschi Schwartzman is a business administrator, and they all live in Belo Horizonte.

## The New Generation



From top left: the children of Cristiana and Michel, Gabriel, and Enrique; the children of Luisa and Yuri, Dimitri and Sasha (Alexandre); and the children of Julia and Felipe, Pedro and David.